

X-FACTOR

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DIRECT EDITION

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY, FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR



ALTHOUGH MATTERS HAVE SETTLED DOWN SOMEWHAT IN MUTANT TOWN AFTER THE EVENTS OF THE DECIMATION, THE X-FACTOR DETECTIVE AGENCY IS STILL NO CLOSER TO DETERMINING THE REASONS BEHIND THE DISEMPOWERING OF NINETY PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S MUTANTS.

IN ADDITION TO DEALING WITH THAT FRUSTRATION, X-FACTOR WAS REELING OVER SIRYN'S BEING ACCOSTED AND BEATEN NEARLY TO DEATH. WHILE SIRYN IS ON THE MEND, GUIDO AND JAMIE MADROX CONFRONTED DAMIAN TRYPI, JUNIOR-CO-OWNER OF SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS, AND THEIR CHIEF SUSPECT IN SIRYN'S ASSAULT. THE ENCOUNTER ENDED INCONCLUSIVELY, ALTHOUGH TRYPI, JUNIOR WAS, IN FACT, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSAULT.

MEANWHILE, X-FACTOR LEARNED SOME OF LAYLA MILLER'S BACKGROUND, INCLUDING THAT SHE IS AN ORPHAN, AND TOOK HER IN ON A SEMI-PERMANENT AND SOMEWHAT UNOFFICIAL BASIS. WHAT THEY DON'T KNOW IS THAT THE "FACTS" THEY'VE LEARNED ARE AT ODDS WITH WHAT SHE'S TOLD THE X-MEN, OR THAT LAYLA WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE DECIMATION. RICTOR, HOWEVER, REMAINS SUSPICIOUS OF THE NEWLY NICKNAMED "BUTTERFLY" AND IS KEEPING A WARY EYE ON HER.

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APPOINTMENT BOOK OF DAMIAN TRYP, SENIOR, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS.

12 NOON TO 2 PM: LUNCH MEETING WITH ZARAZA, DISCUSSING MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING REVISED VIRUS PROGRAMS.

ZARAZA PLANS TO HAVE A NEW VIRUS THAT CAN CRACK ANY GOVERNMENT COMPUTER IN PLACE BY MID-2006. PROJECT ON SCHEDULE.



2 PM TO 3 PM: VIDEO CONFERENCE WITH S.I. HEADS IN LONDON, PARIS, AND STOCKHOLM.

3 PM: MEETING WITH JAMES MADROX, HEAD OF X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS. DO NOT EXPECT THAT MEETING WILL END PARTICULARLY WELL.

Two Meetings, One In Person, One Not

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JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER

X-FACTOR HEADQUARTERS
EARLIER THAT MORNING...

JAMIE? YE
JUST GOT A LETTER
BY COURIER FROM
SINGULARITY
INVESTIGATIONS.

OH, YEAH?
WHAT DO THEY
WANT?

HE WANTS
TO MEET WITH
YOU.

"HE"
WHO?

DAMIAN TRYP,
SENIOR, THE HEAD
OF THE COMPANY.

HUH. I
WONDER WHY
HE WANTS TO
SEE ME?

MAYBE
HE'S A FAN OF
YOUR WORK.

RAHNE, WE
GOT ONE OF HIS
CLIENTS THROWN IN
JAIL FOR MANSLAUGHTER,
AND ONE OF HIS OPERATIVES
BLEW HER BRAINS OUT
RATHER THAN HAVING US
CATCH HER. A FAN?
NOT LIKELY.

LEMME
SEE THE
LETTER.

THREE PM TODAY. HMM.
WELL, WHAT'S THE
WORST THAT COULD
HAPPEN?

HE KILLS YOU.
SEND A DUPLICATE.
IT'S TOO EASY NOT TO,
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS
HIT SOMETHING AND--
PRESTO--INSTANT
DUPLICATE.

NO WAY.
I'M NOT AFRAID
TO FACE HIM.

YOU'RE
BEING AN
IDIOT.

I'M NOT
AFRAID TO
BE THAT,
EITHER.

HELLO,
MADROX.
RAHNE.
OH! HI!
WHAT BRINGS
YOU HERE?

I NEED TO
SEE SIRYN... THERESA.
I HEARD SHE'D BEEN
INJURED.

SHE'S
WELL ON THE
MEND. IN GREAT
SPIRITS.



HEY,
THERESA.

I NEED TO
SPEAK TO YOU
ABOUT SOMETHING.
AND IF IT'S NOT
TOO MUCH
TROUBLE--

IN PRIVATE, RIGHT?
S'OKAY, I'LL MAKE
MYSELF SCARCE.

OH...AND
THERESA...I'M
SORRY.

YEAH, ME
TOO. I GUESS I
WAS A LITTLE OUT
OF LINE JUST
NOW...



SHE'S LAYLA MILLER. SHE "KNOWS STUFF."

IF NOSTRADAMUS WAS REBORN AS WEDNESDAY ADDAMS, THAT'D BE HER.

SO LET ME GUESS, YOU HEARD WHAT HAPPENED TO ME AND GOT ALL WORRIED AND WANTED THE DETAILS.

THERESA, AS LEADER OF THE X-MEN, THERE'RE SOME THINGS THAT FALL TO ME, AND THEY'RE NOT EASY TO--

NO, I MEAN, YES, I HEARD, AND YES, I WAS WORRIED, BUT THAT'S NOT...

SCOTTY? WHAT'S GOING ON?

IT'S... YOUR FATHER.

WHAT'S MY FATHER?

THERE WAS A PLANE... A PLANE FULL OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, AND--

SCOTT, WOULD YOU JUST PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S--?

BANSHEE WAS KILLED IN ACTION, THERESA. I'M SORRY.

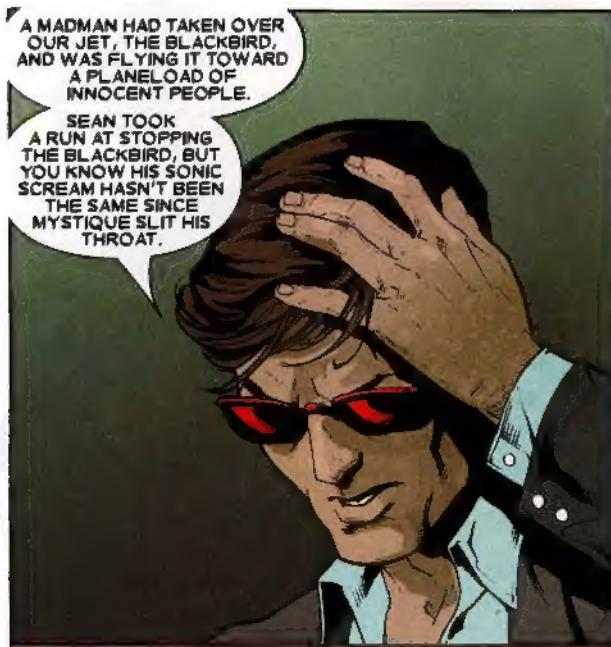
A MADMAN HAD TAKEN OVER OUR JET, THE BLACKBIRD, AND WAS FLYING IT TOWARD A PLANELOAD OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

SEAN TOOK A RUN AT STOPPING THE BLACKBIRD, BUT YOU KNOW HIS SONIC SCREAM HASN'T BEEN THE SAME SINCE MYSTIQUE SLIT HIS THROAT.

ANYWAY...HE FLEW STRAIGHT AT THE BLACKBIRD, AND HIS SOUND ASSAULT DIDN'T SLOW IT, AND...

THE BLACKBIRD HIT HIM STRAIGHT ON.

IT WAS... INCREDIBLY BRAVE, AND I WAS HONORED TO HAVE FOUGHT AT HIS SIDE. ALL THE X-MEN WERE, AND X-CORPORATION...



PERSONAL JOURNAL OF DAMIAN TRYPI
JUNIOR. WHY IN THE WORLD MY "FATHER"
IS INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH MADROX,
I CANNOT BEGIN TO SAY.

HE TELLS ME I
AM TO DEFER TO
HIS JUDGMENT.

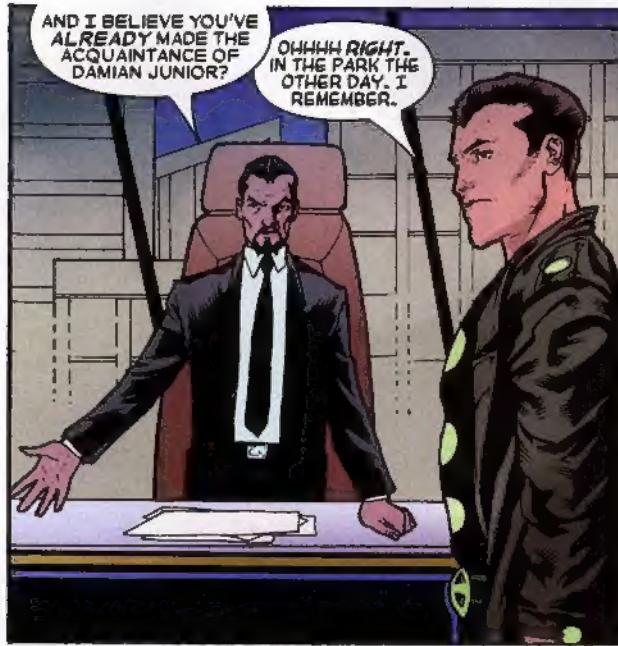
PERSONALLY, I DO NOT
EXPECT THE MEETING TO
END PARTICULARLY WELL.

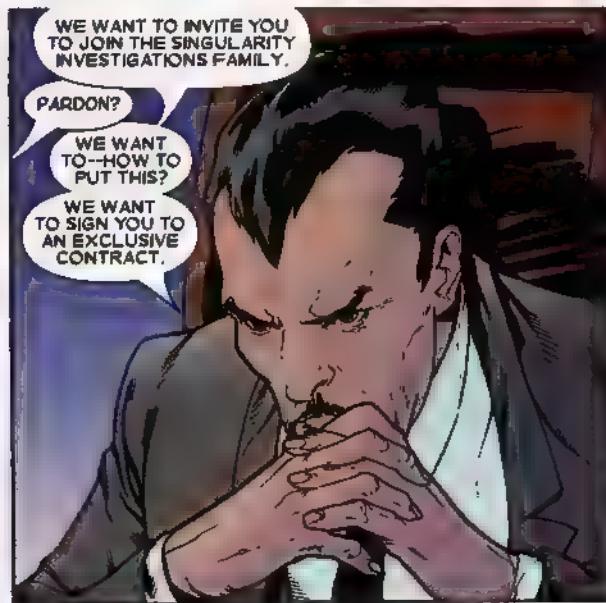
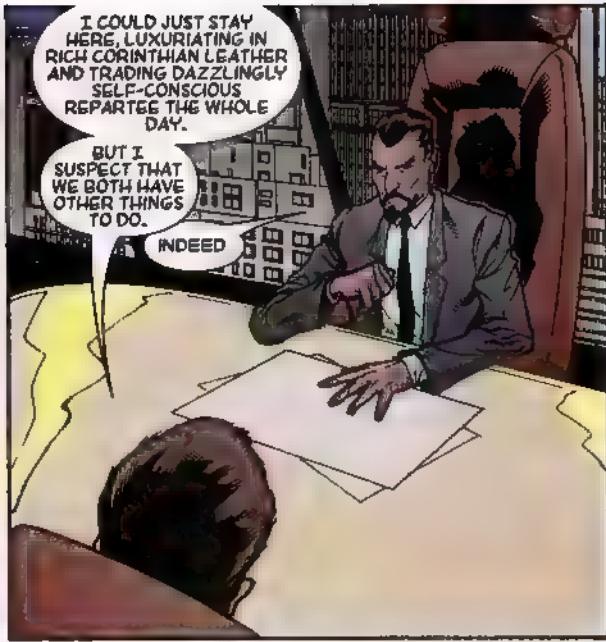
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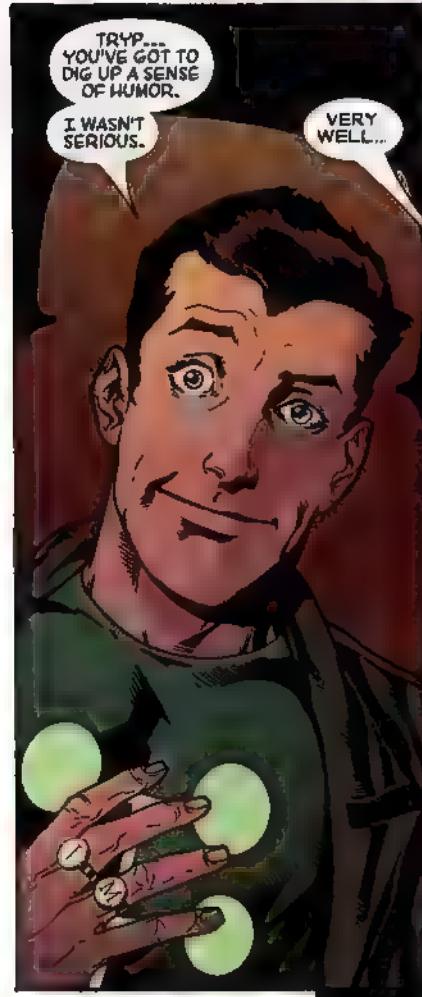
MR. JAMES
MADROX. I'M
DAMIAN TRYPI.

THANK
YOU FOR
COMING.

WELL,
YOU ASKED
ME, SO...













I'M BEGINNING TO THINK OUR OFFER WAS TOO HIGH, IF THAT'S THE LIMIT OF YOUR INVESTIGATIVE THINKING.
"THE USUAL SUSPECTS" WILL SUFFICE IF YOU'RE CLAUDE RAINS... OR EVEN KEVIN SPACEY.
WHY HAVEN'T YOU CONSIDERED GOING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION?

WHAT? YOU MEAN OUR FRIENDS? OUR ALLIES?

WE WENT TO THEM FIRST THING. NONE OF THEM KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

SO THEY SAY

YEAH, SO THEY SAY.

AND I SAY THAT I STILL THINK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BEAT UP SIRYN.

SO I WOULDN'T SNEAK UP BEHIND ME IF I WERE YOU. I'D HATE TO OVERREACT.

SO YOU THINK YOUR FRIENDS WOULD HAVE NO REASON TO LIE TO YOU?

NONE.

EVERYONE LIES, MR. MADROX

TO EACH OTHER TO THEMSELVES EVERYONE





IF YOU'RE SEEING THIS,
WELL... THEN I'M AFRAID
YE WON'T BE SEEING ME
ANYMORE FOR THAT,
I'M TRULY SORRY.

I'M HOPIN' I WENT OUT IN
A BLAZE OF GLORY, INSTEAD
OF... I DUNNO, GETTING
MESELF DRUNK, FALLING OFF
A BARSTOOL AND BREAKING
ME FOOL NECK

EITHER WAY... DON'T
WASTE TOO MANY TEARS.
I HAD A GOOD RUN, AND
CATERED TO ME BETTER
ANGELS MORE THAN ME
DEVILS...

...SO HERE'S HOPING
SAINT PETER WILL
SMILE UPON ME

I HEAR YOU'VE BEEN
INTRODUCING YOURSELF AS
"THERESA CASSIDY" LATELY,
RATHER THAN ROURKE.

HOPEFULLY MAEVE ROURKE,
YOUR DEAR DEPARTED MOTHER, WON'T
COMPLAIN ABOUT IT TO ME WHEN I
SEE HER. I'M THINKIN' NOT

I'D LIKE TO
THINK SHE WOULD
BE PLEASED YOU'RE
TRYING TO EMBRACE
YOUR HERITAGE

LORD KNOWS I WAS
PLEASED AND FLATTERED...
AND VERY, VERY PROUD.

I DON'T THINK I'VE
TOLD YOU ENOUGH HOW
PROUD OF YOU I AM



YOU'RE
GOING
DOWN.



YOU
FIRST
WHAT
THE--?!

AFRAID
YET?



YOU REALLY
SHOULD HAVE
SENT A DUPE.









X-FACTOR

Greetings. Peter David here, welcoming you to the latest X-FACTOR letters page. If I may take a moment to alert you folks to something you might find of interest, hitting the stands right about now is a new book from Impact Press entitled—wait for it—“Writing For Comics With Peter David.” By startling coincidence, that would be me, as I take you on a walking tour of the inner workings of what I laughingly refer to as my mind and how I go about writing comics. The fine folks at Marvel Comics were extremely cooperative in granting permission for reprinting scripts, artwork, and character designs. And X-FACTOR editor Andy Schmidt contributed an essay on how to break into our curious little industry. So check it out wherever more high-class books are sold. But enough about us. Let's talk talk about you, and what you think of us. As always, letters may be edited for length, but not content.

Dear X-FACTOR,

Peter David, I apologize. I have never truly given you the due I have afforded some of my other favorite writers. I vow, that from now on I will pay great attention to your work, whatever it may be, and give all due credit to you and all those who work on my favorite comics.

In regards to X-FACTOR #5, Dennis Calero's renditions of Hopper's Nighthawks and 'that' scene from *Un Chien Andalou* were beautiful and I am thoroughly looking forward to seeing more of his work over the next few issues and all those who work on this exceptional book. I enjoyed the idea of focusing on certain events and characters for certain issues, as was done with Siryn and Rictor in #5, and hope to see more of the same.

X-FACTOR has been on my favorites list since #1. It is a step above most other comics. Keep up the good work.

Eoin Hurley

tylerdurden0153@hotmail.com

Well, Eoin, a number of people picked up on Dennis' first-page riff

on artist Edward Hopper's classic 1941 painting depicting several people seated in a late-night diner. But I have to say, you're the only one to draw a connection to our story and a 1928 French surrealist short film by Louis Bunuel and Salvador Dali. I haven't spoken to Dennis about it, and since we don't depict a woman getting her eye sliced open with a razor blade (I assume that's “the” scene you're referring to) that one may just well be coincidence. But, hey...you never know. Dennis can be pretty tricky at times.

Dear X-FACTOR:

X-FACTOR is my new current favorite of the X-titles. I've always liked those characters and I've always been a fan of Peter David's writing, and I've been wanting him to do more in the X-titles since the MADROX limited series.

One question about X-FACTOR: In the wake of HOUSE OF M and CIVIL WAR, is the potential there for the team to become a government-sanctioned team of super heroes? The existence of a government-sanctioned team of mutants (or heroes in general, considering the government isn't exactly willing to rely on the NEW AVENGERS) could work in a two-fold way.

On the one hand, the government is bridging mutant-human relations by using mutants in a high-profile position (which could explore the “mutant in the spotlight” themes previously used in X-STATIX as well as the “doing it for your own good” themes currently used in SENTINEL SQUAD O.N.E.). On the other hand, the regular ol' humans of the world could rest assured that the government has the Mutant Menace safely under its thumb. And obviously Madrox alone would be a good candidate for government recruitment, due not just to the fact that he's an army of one, but also because of the wealth of intelligence he's capable of absorbing through his duplicates.

Keep up the good work, and Make Mine Marvel (unless it shipped late).

Josh X

joshx3@juno.com

Well, Josh X (any relation to

Malcolm X?) it's interesting you should bring that up. X-Factor's position on both House of M and the Civil War are going to be brought front and center in the next few months. Matters are going to come to a head, and not only is Quicksilver involved, but issue #9 is going to feature a face-off with none other than the Astonishing X-Men (because, gosh darn it, nine issues is long enough to forego having Wolverine show up). Lines will be drawn, sides will be taken, Rubicons will be crossed and bridges will be burned. And the result of all that is pretty much going to answer your question about the likelihood of X-Factor operating on behalf of the government...not to mention your very accurate speculation as to the government recruiting Madrox. But where and how that happens should surprise you.



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